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NEWS.

DR. WILLIAM TRELEASE spent a month in Mexico this summer in the study of agaves and other plants.

DR. O. MELVILLE BALL, of Batesville, Va., and DR. E. F. FRITSCH, of London, have been elected members of the German Botanical Society.

MR. W. BOTTING HEMSLEY, keeper of the Kew Herbarium, has been made associate editor (with Sir Joseph Hooker) of the *Botanical Magazine*.

THE BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT of Stanford University has just entered the new and commodious quarters which have been in process of construction for more than three years.

DR. J. A. HARRIS, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been appointed assistant in the Shaw School of Botany of Washington University. An appointment of his successor at the Garden will shortly be made.

MR. CHARLES A. DAVIS, instructor in forestry in the University of Michigan, is engaged in an extended comparative study of the inland lakes and bogs of the lower peninsula of the state with reference to their geological and botanical history and the conditions of peat formation.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY has been accompanying his son this summer in a journey through the Caucasus region. They crossed the mountains by the Mamisson pass—"a botanist's paradise," he writes—and were in Tiflis on August 19. After a week's journey to the south, they were to turn homeward.

MR. FILBERT ROTH, recently appointed to the chair of forestry in the University of Michigan, has also been elected forest warden of the state by the Michigan Forestry Commission. He has organized a party of forestry students, who are engaged in a preliminary survey of the state forest reservations in Roscommon county, Michigan.

WE LEARN from the *Journal of Botany* that the second and third volumes of the *Icones ad Floram Europae*, including plates 281-500, have been issued under the superintendence of M. Camille A. Jordan, the text having been prepared by the late Alexis Jordan. The remaining incomplete text and about 100 plates will not be published, but have been intrusted to the Botanical Society of France, at whose rooms they may be consulted.

DR. D. H. CAMPBELL left San Francisco on May 15, spent three weeks in New Zealand, and a month in Australia, where, through the kindness of Mr. Maiden, the director of the Sydney Gardens, he saw a great deal of the very

characteristic flora of the country, going as far as Melbourne and a little north of Brisbane, besides making a number of shorter excursions. On the way back he was two weeks in Hawaii, returning to Stanford University September 1.

DR. HERMAN VON SCHRENK, whose government work has been growing constantly, withdraws from the School of Botany of Washington University to give all of his time to the work in plant pathology and the preservation of timbers for the Department of Agriculture, with the title of Chief of the Division of Forest Products, under the Bureau of Forestry. He continues in charge of the Mississippi Valley Laboratory of the Bureau of Plant Industry, located at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

A GARDEN OF MEDICINAL PLANTS is to be established at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Cal. The park commissioners have set aside eight acres of ground in a well protected part of the park and have instructed the park superintendent and the authorities of the California College of Pharmacy to further the plans of such a garden. Climatic and other conditions are exceptionally favorable, and it is believed that fully 90 per cent. of all medicinal plants may be grown in the open. Others will be cared for in greenhouses.

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: Men have been in the field all the year making collections to complete as far as possible the herbarium representing the state flora. Collections have been made chiefly in the northeastern and in the southern counties of the state. PROFESSORS MACBRIDE and SHIMEK have just returned from an excursion down the valley of the Rio Grande. They bring back large collections both of cryptogamic and flowering plants, besides a very large number of photographs representing the ecological conditions of mountain and plain, forest and desert.

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA: PROFESSOR W. A. SETCHELL is spending his sabbatical year in journeying around the world. His time is to be devoted mainly to botanical sightseeing.

PROFESSOR W. L. JEPSON, who is acting head of the department of botany in the absence of Professor Setchell, has devoted the last two summers to a field study of the forests of northwestern California, centering his investigations particularly on the tan oak and the tanbark industry.

Mr. H. M. HALL, who has charge of the herbarium, which now contains 50,000 sheets, made a wagon journey this summer through the cañon of the upper Sacramento River, circled Mount Shasta, crossed the Modoc lava beds, passed south to Larsen Peak, and threaded the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Tahoe region and the Calaveras grove. It was a long and very productive journey.

SIR THOMAS HANBURY has presented to the Royal Horticultural Society of London a tract known as Wisley Garden, situated twenty miles from Hyde Park Corner. The *Gardener's Chronicle* reports it as "unique . . . devoid

of all plan and in all its aspects as wild as a garden can be It was made piecemeal and as the late Mr. Wilson's fancy dictated. . . . There are no broad paths no geometrical beds. . . . All is natural, yet natural with plants of every conceivable description. . . . Not a thing is named, but labels in such a garden, if used, must be numbered by thousands. . . . There is no digging permitted in the many acres thus wildly planted. The men do little else but pull weeds, and occasionally use the knife." It is to be hoped that the garden will be maintained as at present and that the Society will reorganize its garden at Chiswick and equip it with a staff of investigators for experimental work.

NOTES FROM THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE :

DR. GEORGE T. MOORE, physiologist, has been sent to Europe for the purpose of investigating the methods used there in the study of soil bacteriology, and for the purpose of securing plants of various kinds for the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction. He will return in January.

MR. W. T. SWINGLE has just returned from the Mediterranean region, after an extended study of the pistache, a nut-bearing tree which the department is introducing into the southwest. Mr. Swingle has also made a careful study of several other Mediterranean crop plants and fruit trees, which the department is proposing to introduce into the same region. He will remain in Washington for some time.

MR. P. H. DORSETT has been authorized to establish in some portion of southern California a plant testing and acclimatization garden, in cooperation with the Agricultural Experiment Station of California. This garden will be used to test and propagate rare and valuable plants introduced by the department. MR. W. W. TRACY will assist Mr. Dorsett in selecting the location, which will be announced soon.

MR. W. M. SCOTT, late state entomologist of Georgia, will give his attention especially to work on the diseases of orchard fruits.

A NUMBER of scientific assistants and aids have recently been appointed. In the Office of Physiological and Pathological Investigations: P. J. O'GARA, GEORGE F. MILLS, LEONARD F. HARTER, of Nebraska, and ARTHUR H. LEIDIGH, of Kansas. Mr. O'Gara and Mr. Harter will be stationed in Washington, and Mr. Leidigh at Amarillo, Texas, on one of the government experiment farms. In the office of the agrostologist: M. A. CROSBY, and M. B. STEVENS, of Michigan; BYRON HUNTER, of Washington; R. A. OAKLEY, of Kansas; C. W. WARBURTON, of Iowa.

MR. W. J. SPILLMAN is investigating forage conditions in the northwest. C. R. BALL and DAVID GRIFFITHS are also in the field, the former in connection with the exhibits at St. Louis, and the latter studying range problems in the southwest.

MR. A. S. HITCHCOCK has returned from a three-months' trip from Louisiana to California and Washington, where he has been investigating

agricultural conditions, and the methods for preventing the drifting of sand in sand-dune areas. MR. J. M. WESTGATE, a graduate of the Kansas Agricultural College and later a student in the botanical department of the University of Chicago, has been appointed an assistant in this work.

MR. C. V. PIPER, professor of botany in the Washington Agricultural College, has been appointed systematic agrostologist in charge of the herbarium of grasses.

PROFESSOR L. H. BOLLEY is still in Russia, studying varieties of flax with a view to introducing desirable kinds into the United States. He will return about November 1.

MR. J. E. W. TRACY is in Europe studying the seed-growing industry. He will make himself familiar with the methods of the best growers and with the most desirable new European varieties of vegetables.

THERE WILL soon be published as a bulletin a paper entitled "Conditions influencing the vitality and germination of seeds," by DR. J. W. T. DUVEL. It is a historical review of the work already done on the vitality of seeds, as well as a report of the results of his own investigations carried on at the University of Michigan in 1900, 1901, and 1902.

MR. ERNST BESSEY is at present in the Caucasus making observations on such of the native fruits and nuts as may seem valuable, and will send seeds and plants to the United States.

MR. GEORGE OLIVER has just returned from Florida, where he studied the mango culture with a view to the further introduction of choice varieties.

MR. BARBOUR LATHROP, of Chicago, who has made several expeditions at his own expense to different parts of the world, in search of valuable seeds and plants for introduction into America, has just returned. He has employed on his various expeditions MR. D. G. FAIRCHILD, who now resumes his connection with the department as one of its agricultural explorers. The countries visited this year with a view to more thorough exploration later by the department agents were Italy, Sicily, Tripoli, Tunis, Malta, Egypt, German East Africa, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, Natal, Transvaal, Cape Colony, Grand Canary, Madeira, Portugal, Spain, Bohemia, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, and England. Such seeds and plants as were secured were given by Mr. Lathrop to the Department of Agriculture for propagation and distribution, and it is hoped that some of them may prove of great value to the country, repaying him for his patriotic and generous interest in increasing the variety of food and ornamental plants of America.